

Patent

Case No.: 55947US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:

AUSEN, RONALD W.

Application No.:

10/016544

Group Art Unit:

1733

Filed:

December 11, 2001

Examiner:

Justin R. Fischer

Title:

FILM STRUCTURES AND METHODS OF MAKING FILM STRUCTURES

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

March 4 2004

Gluy J. Schmitz
Signed by: Chdryl L. Schmitz

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2004. Claims 1-59 are pending.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect the species identified as 1(b) where the separable surface elements are formed by at least partially cutting the film as shown in Fig. 3. Claims 3, 18-36 and 56 are specifically directed at this embodiment. Applicants wish to proceed with the at least the method claims, should a further restriction be deemed appropriate over the method versus the product-by-process claims 36.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

March 4 200

Date

William J. Bond, Reg. No.: 32,400

Telephone No.: (651) 736-4790

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833